

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (R-FL 13) announced today that Port Manatee has been awarded \$355,821 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to help prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from terrorism, disasters, and other emergencies.

“The safe and efficient movement of goods is vital to homeland security and the region’s economy,” said Buchanan. “I congratulate Port Manatee for receiving this grant. This funding will help protect the port and its \$2.3 million impact on the county.”

The award is part of the fiscal year 2007 federal Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) to create sustainable, risk-based efforts to protect critical port infrastructure from terrorism. Funding can be used for priorities including training, exercises, and other activities to mitigate the risk of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and to improve employee credentialing and access controls. Since 2001, Port Manatee has received more than \$3.2 million to strengthen security.

“Port Manatee would like to recognize Congressman Vern Buchanan for his contribution in securing these grants,” said Steve Tyndal, Senior Director of Trade Development and Special Projects. “The funding that was awarded will be used for enhanced surveillance as well as screening and access control improvements.”

Port Manatee is the fifth largest of Florida’s 14 freshwater ports.